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DD/S 71-3400

Executive Registry

71-4541

27 AUG 1971

OGC Has Reviewed

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : ~~NO~~ Deputy Director for Support 1 SEP 1971SUBJECT : Trace Metal Detection Technique -
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration:
A Status Report

1. This memorandum is for your information only.
2. Last summer you authorized the declassification of the Trace Metal Detection Technique, developed by the Technical Services Division and the Office of Medical Services, and its dissemination to the nation's law enforcement agencies via two routes:

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- a. By the Office of Security to selected police departments

- b. By the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), U.S. Department of Justice, to the nation's law enforcement agencies in general.

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3. During the summer of 1970, the Office of Security, in coordination with the Technical Services Division and the Office of Medical Services, prepared an unclassified text for the Trace Metal Detection Technique manual to be issued by LEAA and

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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arranged for a series of unclassified photographs for the manual to be prepared by the [REDACTED] Laboratory. Additional Security personnel were trained in the technique, and instructional briefings were provided to representatives of 19 federal agencies and organizations and 35 state and local police agencies. [REDACTED]

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4. In support of the LEAA transfer of the technology to the nation's law enforcement organizations, the Office of Security provided personnel, [REDACTED] to provide training demonstrations in several major cities, at the annual meeting of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and at an LEAA-sponsored seminar for representatives of 82 police departments. More recently a representative of this Office, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] provided a training session at the annual convention of the [REDACTED] Division of the International Association for Identification. Police personnel trained by Office of Security personnel gave similar presentations at the national conventions of the International Association for Identification and the Association of Firearms and Tool Examiners, both held earlier this year.

5. Some 19 police departments have already successfully used the technique in major criminal investigations, including the solution of a case involving the homicide of a police officer in which Trace Metal Detection was the only indicator of the culprit. In another case, our police liaison in a major city told of Trace Metal Detection proving suicide in a death in which circumstances indicated murder, thus resulting in the release of an innocent party. Other applications developed by police have ranged from early evaluation of suicides to the theft of metal items such as copper wire and gutters.

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6. On the anniversary of your declassification of the technique, we asked the LEAA to provide us with an assessment of the police response to the technique. In their response, which is included as Attachment A, LEAA advises that over 2,000 persons have been trained in the technique and that the initial printing of 3,000 manuals and 800 of the second printing have been distributed. LEAA sums up their experience with Trace Metal Detection: "We consider the entire program from its inception to date to have been an unqualified success. It was well received, and is in use in a large number of departments. It is known to many who are not at present using it, and in time, we expect that the Trace Metal Detection Technique will be generally accepted by all agencies as a useful tool." A copy of the LEAA manual is included as Attachment B.



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Acting Director of Security

Attachments

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Distribution:

Orig - Return to AD/Sec. w/atts. A & B
1 - DDCI w/att. A
1 - Ex. Dir. -Compt. w/att. A
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